

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS STATE 148192

FOR US REP ICAO

FOL REPEAT FOR YOUR INFO STATE 148192 SENT ACTION LONDON ROME

INFO LISBON MADRID PALERMO JUNE 24, 1975

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 148192

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:TPHY:IT,UK

SUBJECT:SCIENTIFIC BALLOON LAUNCH FROM SICILY

REF: STATE A-3556

1. WE ARE SENDING SEPARATELY BY AIRGRAM MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US, UK AND ITALY CONCERNING SUBJECT
LAUNCH JULY OR AUGUST 1975. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
HAS SIGNED FOR US.

2. SINCE JUNIOR OFFICER SIGNED FOR NSF, SUGGEST APPRO-
PRIATE COUNTERPARTS SIGN FOR UK, ITALIAN RESEARCH COUN-
CILS.

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3. TEXT OF MOU FOLLOWS FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENT:

QUOTE: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (TITLE underscored)
PARA. THIS IS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, EFFECTIVE
ON THE DATE DULY SIGNED BY (1) THE UNITED KINGDOM SCIENCE
RESEARCH COUNCIL (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS SRC), AND
(2) THE ITALIAN CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (HERE-
INAFTER REFERRED TO AS CNR), AND (3) THE NATIONAL SCIENCE
FOUNDATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (HEREINAFTER
REFERRED TO AS NSF), WHOSE CONTRACTOR IS THE UNIVERSITY

CORPORATION FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH (HEREINAFTER REFERRED
TO AS UCAR), WHICH OPERATES THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC
BALLOON FACILITY (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS NSBF). AS
SET FORTH IN THIS MEMORANDUM, NSBF WILL PROVIDE LAUNCHING
AND RECOVERY ASSISTANCE FOR A SCIENTIFIC BALLOON FLIGHT
TO BE LAUNCHED FROM TRAPANI-MILO, SICILY, AND TO BE
RECOVERED IN THE U.S. DURING THE PERIOD 27 JULY 1975 TO
23 AUGUST 1975.

PARA I. FLIGHT PLANS (TITLE underscored) PARA. THE
FLIGHT WILL BE OF A BALLOON OF 20 MILLION CUBIC FEET
CARRYING A PAYLOAD OF APPROXIMATELY 1800 KILOGRAMS. IT
WILL BE LAUNCHED DURING THE PERIOD 27 JULY 1975 TO 23
AUGUST 1975 FROM TRAPANI-MILO, SICILY, WILL FLOAT WITH
PREVAILING WINDS WESTWARD AT AN ALTITUDE OF ABOUT
140,000 FEET ACROSS SPAIN, PORTUGAL, THE ATLANTIC OCEAN
AT ABOUT 37 DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE, AND THE SOUTHERN
UNITED STATES, AND WILL BE REMOTELY COMMANDED TO DESCEND
BY PARACHUTE AT A CONVENIENT AND SAFE LOCATION WITHIN THE
U.S. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE FLIGHT WILL BE CONTROLLED
BY HF AND VHF TELECOMMAND SYSTEMS, AND POSITION INFORMA-
TION ACCURATE WITHIN PLUS OR MINUS 5 MILES WILL BE OB-
TAINED THROUGH THE OMEGA OR TRANSIT NAVIGATION SYSTEMS AND
WITHIN THE U.S. BY NORMAL TRACKING TECHNIQUES CUSTOMARILY
USED BY NSBF. THE SCIENTIFIC PAYLOAD, BALLOONS AND GAS
FOR THE FLIGHT WILL BE PROVIDED BY DR. PETER FOWLER,
BRISTOL UNIVERSITY, BRISTOL, ENGLAND, AND WILL CONSIST OF
EMULSION AND PLASTIC DETECTOR FOR HEAVY COSMIC RAYS.

PARA II. SPECIFIC UNDERTAKINGS ON THE PART OF NSF (ACT-
ING THROUGH ITS CONTRACTOR, UCAR) (TITLE underscored)
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PARA. NSF AGREES TO:

SUBPARA A. PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FOR
THE LAUNCH IN SICILY, INCLUDING FIVE ENGINEER/TECHNICIANS,
VARIOUS PIECES OF EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING RIGGING HARDWARE,
TEST ELECTRONICS, AND AIRBORNE COMMAND AND TELEMETRY
PACKAGE, AND A LAUNCH SPOOL.

SUBPARA B. ASSUME COMMAND OF THE FLIGHT WHEN IT REACHES U.S. TERRITORY.

SUBPARA C. EFFECT BALLOON SYSTEM DESCENT AND PAYLOAD RECOVERY WITHIN THE U.S.

SUBPARA D. MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR AIR TRAFFIC AND CUSTOMS CLEARANCE IN THE U.S.

PARA III. SPECIFIC UNDERTAKINGS ON THE PART OF THE CNR
(TITLE UNDERSCORED) PARA. CNR AGREES TO:

SUBPARA A. PROVIDE THE LAUNCH AREA AND NECESSARY FACILITIES IN SICILY.

SUBPARA B. OBTAIN ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS AND CLEARANCES IN NATIONS BORDERING THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND PORTUGAL.

SUBPARA C. ARRANGE FOR DUTY-FREE ENTRY AND EXIT INTO AND OUT OF ITALY OF EQUIPMENT RELATED TO THIS PROGRAM.

PARA IV. SPECIFIC UNDERTAKINGS OF THE SRC (TITLE UNDERSCORED) PARA. SRC AGREES TO:

SUBPARA A. PROVIDE NECESSARY GROUND STATIONS AND DATA RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS IN SICILY AND THE AZORES.

SUBPARA B. REIMBURSE THE NSF'S CONTRACTOR, UCAR, FOR ALL EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE NSBF IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED U.S. 15,000 DOLLARS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SALARIES, TRAVEL, AND PER DIEM.

PARA V. DURATION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (TITLE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNDERScored) PARA. THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SHALL BE IN EFFECT FROM THE DATE OF ITS EXECUTION THROUGH 30 JUNE 1976.

PARA VI. TITLE TO PROPERTY (TITLE UNDERScored) PARA. TITLE TO ALL EQUIPMENT AND OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY FURNISHED BY NSF OR UCAR SHALL REMAIN VESTED IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

PARA VII. LIABILITY (TITLE UNDERScored) PARA. UCAR SHALL OBTAIN INSURANCE TO COVER CLAIMS FOR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, OR DEATH OR INJURY TO PERSONS ARISING OUT OF THE BALLOON FLIGHT UNDER THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY MILLION U.S. DOLLARS (20,000,000 DOLLARS) AND CLAIMS NOT ARISING OUT OF THE FLIGHT IN THE

AMOUNT OF FIVE MILLION U.S. DOLLARS (5,000,000 DOLLARS).

FULL PARA. THE SRC AND THE CNR AGREE TO ASSUME ALL LIABILITY AND TO HOLD THE UNITED STATES, THE NSF, AND UCAR HARMLESS, WITH RESPECT TO ANY CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING NOT COVERED BY THE INSURANCE DESCRIBED ABOVE.

FULL PARA. THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING MAY BE AMENDED AT ANY TIME UPON WRITTEN MUTUAL CONSENT OF NSF,

SRC, AND CNR. END QUOTE.

4. MOU TO BE SIGNED BY NSF, SRC, AND CNR. KISSINGER

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